

1941

Carmarthen Urban Sanitary Authority

69th Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary Conditions of the County of
the Borough of Carmarthen

BY

ELFYN T. JONES

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

CARMARTHEN.

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Samples of Water taken during the year—continued.

Date.	Source.	Type of Examination.	Result.
7/6/41	Gwili River Water ...	Bacteriological ...	Bad
12/6/41	Water from Site of Pump House, Gwili River	do. ...	Bad
19/6/41	River Water from Site of New Pump House	do. ...	Unsatisfactory
26/6/41	Water from Tap at Sanitary Inspector's ... Office	do. ...	Chlorination inadequate
26/6/41	Water from Tap at 47 St. David's Avenue	do. ...	Chlorination inadequate
26/6/41	Water from Pump House, Gwili River ...	do. ...	Bad
2/7/41	Site of Pump House, Gwili River ...	do. ...	Bad
3/7/41	Chlorinated Spring Water from 47 St. David's Avenue	do. ...	Unsatisfactory
3/7/41	Chlorinated Spring Water from Municipal Buildings	do. ...	Unsatisfactory
3/7/41	Site of Pump House, Gwili River ...	do. ...	Bad
15/7/41	Sample from 47 St. David's Avenue	Bacteriological and Chemical ...	Chemically not very satisfactory
17/7/41	Gwili River Site of Pump House ...	Bacteriological ...	Bad
18/7/41	Covered Pump, 91 Lammas Street	do. ...	Excellent
1/8/41	Well Water, Steam Laundry, Priory Street	do. ...	Unfit without Chlorination
1/8/41	Gwili River Water ...	do. ...	Bad
7/8/41	Well at Cow & Gate Factory ...	do. ...	Excellent

Samples of Water taken during the year—*continued.*

Date.	Source.	Type of Examination.	Result.
12/8/41	Well at Trevaughan ...	Bacteriological ...	Fairly satisfactory
13/8/41	Well at Surveyor's Dept., Wellfield Road ...	do. ...	Bad
21/8/41	Water from Pump House, Gwili River ...	do. ...	Bad
12/9/41	Tap, 47 St. David's Avenue ...	do. ...	Chlorination is not quite satisfactory. Fairly satisfactory.
12/9/41	Tap, Municipal Buildings ...	do. ...	Chlorination is not quite sufficient. Fairly satisfactory.
13/9/41	Deep Well at Trcfychan Fach ...	do. ...	Fairly satisfactory
24/10/41	Tap, 47 St. David's Avenue ...	do. ...	Chlorination inadequate
24/10/41	Tap, Sanitary Inspector's Office ...	do. ...	Chlorination inadequate

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The assistance given by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, at Penlan Road has been invaluable, and I desire to place on record my appreciation of the services rendered by the Laboratory and in particular that of Doctors Fry and Boissard.

The number of cases of Diphtheria showed a decided fall as compared with the previous year, and this was undoubtedly the result of the immunisation drive carried out during the years 1940 and 1941. Decided increase was noted in the number of cases of Whooping Cough and Measles, particularly Measles which numbered 205 as compared with 38 of the previous year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1941.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.		Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	Borough	Evacs.		
Diphtheria ...	26	20	38	4
Scarlet Fever ...	4	6	7	0
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas ...	1	0	0	0
Smallpox ...	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	16	1	9	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	15	0	14	0
Measles ...	182	23	4	0
Whooping Cough	40	3	0	0

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In March the Borough in conjunction with the Rural District Council appointed Dr. Dilys Lloyd-Davies as an assistant to the Medical Officer of Health, a portion of her time being devoted to Diphtheria Immunisation. During the year an immunisation

against diphtheria drive was instituted by propaganda through the press, cinemas, schools and personal contact with parents, immunisation being offered free of charge. The result of the drive was most encouraging and by the end of the year the number of children immunised were as follows:—

Borough School Children.

Number immunised during the year was 424, making a total of 1,114 children immunised in the Borough, i.e., 78.5% of the school population.

Evacuated School Children.

Number immunised during the year was 348, i.e., 83% of the evacuated school population.

Evacuated Secondary School Children.

Number immunised during the year was 140, i.e., 77% of the Evacuated Secondary School Population.

Maternity and Child Welfare Children.

Number immunised during the year was 111, making a total of 328, i.e., 56.8% of the M/CW. Child population.

This figure of 328 is not a true indication of the state of immunisation of children under 5 years of age, as it is based on the records in the Public Health Department and does not include the large number of children who have been immunised privately and of whom no record is available. It is therefore, probable that this percentage of 56.8 should be a much higher one.

Dr. Dilys Lloyd-Davies resigned her appointment in mid September, but immunisation is still carried out by the Medical Officer of Health at the Clinic in Pond Street on Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m.

While the state of immunisation in the town ensures that there will be no serious epidemic of the disease, I cannot consider it satisfactory until 100% of the children of all ages have been immunised. It is impossible to understand the attitude of parents who still refuse to have their children immunised, and I cannot stress too strongly the risk they are exposing their children to by not having them protected.

Tuberculosis.

No. of new cases on register during the year 1941 was 19. (11 males; 8 females).

No. of deaths during the year was 14 (9 males; 5 females).

New Cases of, and Mortality from, Tuberculosis.

Age Period in years.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1—5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—25	5	3	0	0	2	1	0	1
25—35	3	2	0	0	2	1	0	0
35—45	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
45—55	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
55—65	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	11	8	0	0	8	2	1	3

Rates per 1,000 Population of Notifications and Deaths.

Year.	Notifications (New Cases)	Deaths.
1936	1.75	1.65
1937	1.55	0.73
1938	1.5	0.27
1939	1.8	0.63
1940	1.96	0.76
1941	1.5	1.1

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.

- (a) No. of Tuberculin-Tested Licensees in force in Borough—0.
- (b) No. of Accredited License holders in Borough—20.
- (c) No. of Tuberculin-Tested Milk Samples taken—0.
- (d) No. of Accredited Milk Samples taken—62.

Samples of Milk taken—18.

No. reported as satisfactory—10.

No. reported as unsatisfactory—8.

The position shows a little improvement on last year, but there is still much room for improvement. It is hoped that in future it will be possible to carry out a closer supervision over those producers whose milk samples have proved to be unsatisfactory. It cannot be stressed too strongly the importance of clean milk in the maintenance of the health of the population, and particularly the child population.

Meat.

Throughout the year the abattoir in Carmarthen was used as the central place for the slaughtering of cattle. Mr. Francis,

the Sanitary Inspector has, with the occasional assistance of the Sanitary Inspectors of the Rural District carried out the inspection of carcasses slaughtered there.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known ...	1284	1728	13,942	454
Number Inspected ...	1284	1728	13,942	454
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	25	8	23	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	534	13	1388	7
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	41.6%	.75%	.99%	1.5%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	5	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	19	—	—	9
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with T.B. ...	1.4%	—	—	2%

Disinfection.

Number of times steam disinfectant used	...	...	87
Number of premises disinfected	...	...	65

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Nature of Visit or Inspection							No. of Visits.
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Workshops	}	...	...	...	...	...	41
Workplaces		...	...	...	...	...
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Refuse Collection...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	31

HOUSING.

Nature of Visit or Inspection.							No. of Visits.
Under Public Health Acts.							
Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	225
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	225
Under Housing Acts.							
Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Overcrowding.							
Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Verminous Premises.							
Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Miscellaneous Housing Visits							
	...	...	...	...	...	...	31

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	56
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	...	1
Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	...	65
Number of times Steam Disinfector used	...	...	...	87

PREFACE.

To the Mayor, Alderman and Members of the Council of the
Borough of Carmarthen.

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending
December 31st, 1941, which is in the form suggested by Circular
1937.

The work to be carried out by the Public Health Department continually increases, and for the effort made to cope with this increase I wish to gratefully acknowledge the way in which all members of my staff have undertaken additional duties.

I wish to thank my colleagues and their staffs for their continued co-operation and help.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ELFYN T. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:

Elfyn T. Jones, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant to the Medical Officer of Health:

Dilys Lloyd-Davies, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S.
(London) (Resigned in September, 1941).

Clerk to the County of the Borough of Carmarthen:

Howard B. White, Esq.

Borough Engineer and Surveyor:

G. L. Ovens, Esq.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

J. J. Healy, M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:

C. P. Robinson, F.R.C.S., (Edin.)

School Dental Surgeon:

Gwilym Evans, L.D.S., R.C.S., (Eng.)

Obstetrical Consultant:

Dr. Lloyd Davies, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspector:

E. W. Francis, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Shops Inspector:

James Evans, C.R.S.I.

Veterinary Surgeon:

T. R. Thomas, M.R.C.V.S.

Food and Drugs Inspector:

D. Roderick, Chief Inspector, County Council.

Health Visitor and School Nurse:

Octavia Davies, C.M.B.

Dental Nurse, and L.C.C. School Nurse:

M. F. Phillips, S.R.N., C.M.B.

Clerks to the Medical Officer of Health:

G. Griffiths.

Miss J. P. Jones.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Carmarthen Urban District Authority is comprised of the Parish of St. Peter's and is 5,160 acres in extent. The area is largely rural and is undeveloped.

Population, Rateable Value, etc.

The estimated population made by the Registrar General for mid-year, 1941 was 12,630. The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year, according to the Rate Book is 3,060 (approx.). The rateable value of the Borough is £61,430, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £234.

Vital Statistics.

Vital Statistics.				Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.
Live Births	{	Legitimate ...	141	54	87	11.1	
	{	Illegitimate ...	6	1	5	0.47	
				Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.			
Still Births	...	...	8	5	3	51.6	
				Death Rate.			
Deaths	...	...	...	153	76	77	12.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

				Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0		0.00
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	1		6.45
				1	6.45

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 live births—80.5.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births—83.9.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—333.3.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—12.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—0.

Deaths in the Borough.

The number of deaths registered in the Borough during the year is 76 males, 77 females.

These figures are altered by inward and outward transfers, thus:—

	Males		Females		Total.
Deaths registered in the area	145	...	156	...	301
Outward transfers	...	...	82	...	159
Inward transfers	...	...	3	...	11
	—	...	—	...	—
	76	...	77	...	153

Thus the total number of Borough deaths is 153, giving a crude death rate of 12.1 per 1,000 population.

The Registrar General has given no factor from which to estimate the standardised death rate.

The figure for the crude death rate namely 12.1 for the population is lower than the corresponding figures in the Borough in the years 1939 and 1940.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Penlan Road, Carmarthen which was opened last year firmly established itself, and has become a recognised and also a most important

factor in the supervision of the public health. The Laboratory has dealt with vast numbers of specimens for bacteriological investigation and the assistance given by Doctors Fry and Boissard has been invaluable. Although the establishment of this Laboratory is a wartime measure, I sincerely hope that it will be made a permanent institution as its assistance to the Public Health Department cannot be too highly rated.

Clinic (Maternity and Child Welfare and Education Committees).

The Clinic in Pond Street has continued to be widely used throughout the year. Towards the end of the year a bath was erected at the Clinic and this has greatly increased the facilities available for the treatment of Scabies—facilities particularly needed since the introduction of the Scabies Order, 1941.

Clinics are held as follows:—

- (a) Child Welfare Clinic—Mondays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- (b) Anti-Natal Clinic—Thursdays, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon.
- (c) Minor Ailment Clinic—Five times a week; School Medical Officer in attendance every Tuesday morning.
- (d) Dental Clincc—Tuesdays 2.30 p.m., Fridays 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
- (e) Ultra Violet Light Clinic—Monday and Thursday mornings as required.

Attendances—Welfare Centre.

No. on register at the end of 1941—200.

No. of new cases under 1 year of age—98.

No. of new cases over 1 year of age—48.

No. of attendances by children under 1 year of age—906.

No. of attendances by children between 1 and 5 years of age—131.

Total Number of attendances made—1,037.

Average attendance per session—22.3.

Total number of attendances made (both Clinics)—1,484.

No. of attendances by Evacuees (M/CW)—294.

Maternity Service.

The Anti-Natal Clinic established the year previous' was well attended. The number of expectant mothers who attended the Clinic being as follows:—

Borough Expectant Mothers—27.

Evacuated Expectant Mothers—29.

The number of cases admitted to Borough Beds in the Infirmary—40 (including 12 evacuees).

The facilities available for the provision of Maternity Beds and the services of an Obstetric Consultant were the same as in the previous year.

Water Supplies.

The water supply of the Borough continues to cause great concern and during the year a careful watch was maintained, and samples being taken for bacteriological examination, at regular periodic intervals. It has unfortunately been found necessary to resort to fairly heavy chlorination in order to ensure its safety for domestic use.

As no drought was experienced during the year it was not found necessary to augment the Cwmtawel Supply by water obtained from the Gwili River, but the Borough Surveyor's Department took the precaution of making arrangements to deal with such an emergency.

Although it has been pointed out in previous reports, I feel it is my duty to again remind the Council that the provision of a water supply adequate in quantity and quality should be their first consideration in any post-war plan.

SAMPLES OF WATER TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

Date.	Source.	Type of Examination.	Result.
10/2/41	Spring Water from Tap at 47 St. David's... Avenue	Bacteriological ...	Excellent
10/2/41	Spring Water from Cwmoernant Reservoir	do. ...	Fairly good
10/2/41	Spring Water from Sanitary Inspector's Office	do. ...	Chlorination inadequate
15/4/41	Water from Cwmoernant Reservoir ...	Chemical and Bact. ...	Unsatisfactory
30/4/41	Gwili River Water ...	Bacteriological ...	Unfit for use without Chlorination
1/5/41	Water from Gwili River ...	do. ...	Unsatisfactory
1/5/41	Water from Conwil River ...	do. ...	Unsatisfactory
2/5/41	Water from Upper Cwmoernant Reservoir	do. ...	Satisfactory
8/5/41	Water from Gwili River by New Pump Hse.	do. ...	Unsatisfactory
8/5/41	Water from Pump House Site, Gwili River	do. ...	Unsatisfactory
15/5/41	Water from Girls' County School ...	do. ...	Bad
22/5/41	Chlorinated Water from Girls' County School	do. ...	Good
22/5/41	Water from Site of New Pumping Station, Gwili River	do. ...	Bad
23/5/41	Do. do. do.	do. ...	Bad
28/5/41	Water from Site of Pump House, Gwili ...	do. ...	Bad
6/6/41	Water from Site of New Pump House ...	do. ...	Bad

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Inspection of Meat and Meat Shops.

Number of Slaughterhouses in area	1
Number of Slaughterhouses visited	1
No. of visits made to above Slaughterhouses	395
No. of visits to Shops and Stalls	64
No. of visits to butchers	1,520

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

No. of produceers in area... ..	72
No. of retail purveyors in area	26
No. of visits to cowsheds	47
No. of new cowsheds provided	—
No. of cowsheds reconditioned	2

NOTICES SERVED.

Under the Housing Acts.

No. of informal notices served	Nil
No. of informal notices complied with	Nil
No. of formal notiees served	Nil
No. of formal notices complied with	Nil

Under the Public Health Acts.

No. of informal notiees served	43
No. of informal notices complied with	43
No. of formal notices served	3
No. of formal notices eomplied with	3

Under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

No. of informal notiees served	Nil
No. of informal notices eomplied with	Nil

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Publie Health or Housing Acts)	436
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	436
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (inluded under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and reeorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925	225
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	225
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	164

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	43
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2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	43
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A.—*Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	43
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) by owners	3
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C.—*Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D.—*Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit ...	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	68
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	69
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	395
(b) (i) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6

